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Uribe's Adventure

Editorial in liberal Folha de S.Paulo (7/02) says: "President of Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, is facing political-juridical difficulties although his popular prestige continues to be high. It is exactly this mixture that worries. In an attempt to suppress the scandal [ex-Senator Yidis Medina vote buying scandal], the government launches the idea of convoking a referendum, which authorizes the repetition of the 2006 presidential contest. This would be a way to recover legitimacy. The logic of the proposal is precarious. Nobody questions Uribe's victory; what is contested is the legality of his candidacy. It seems frightening to take such decision to the streets, especially in a context in which the Executive and Judiciary are in a dispute and the Legislative is going through an unprecedented credibility crisis. The measure sounds even more dangerous when one has known for some time that Uribe is flirting with the idea of a third mandate."

White